

# AN T-ÓGLÁC

REGISTERED]

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS.

[NEWSPAPER.

Vol. IV. No. 5 (New Series).

JUNE 24, 1922.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

## NOTES

**Restoring Order.** For some months past armed gangs have been taking advantage of the transition stage in Irish affairs to enrich themselves at the expense of their country. Their activities have been facilitated by those who are attempting to oppose by force the right of the people to express themselves as to their future form of government. In many instances the responsibility for the cowardly and reprehensible campaign being waged against minority groups in Ireland may also be traced to those modern liberators who expound democracy through the medium of an automatic. However, the tide seems to have turned against the bank robbers, who are surely being run to earth by the Criminal Investigation Department, and in due course the nation will be rid of this pest. It is the duty of all soldiers and citizens to cooperate in this endeavour to restore the good name which Ireland has always retained as the most crimeless country in the world, and to bring about conditions of order and security for all citizens.

**The Third Dáil.** The third Dáil has just been elected. The voice of the sovereign people has spoken on the issues which have agitated the nation for many months past. The result is an endorsement of the attitude which the vast majority of Irish soldiers have adopted in continuing to stand by G.H.Q. and function under Dáil Eireann. Apart from all purely political controversies, the Election provided the country with an opportunity of making its opinion known in regard to the Army position. It has done so in no uncertain fashion. The return of the Minister for Defence, the Chief of Staff, the Adjutant-

General, Major-General McKeon and other G.H.Q. Officers leave no room for doubt as to the measure of the country's gratitude to the Irish Army, and its appreciation of the policy which recognises in the Army the servant and not the dictator of the people.

### Lamentable Accidents.

During the past week there has been an unusually large number of motor and other accidents, resulting in an increasingly heavy mortality list amongst

cycle and a tender belonging to the Criminal Investigation Department. The deceased left a wife and four children to mourn his loss. On Saturday morning a party of troops returning by motor from Drogheda to Navan crashed into a wall at Slane, as a result of which several of the party were seriously injured. Subsequently Adjutant P. Mooney (18), Kilbeg, Co. Meath, succumbed to injuries received. The tragic occurrence was caused by a dislocation of the steering gear of the lorry. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamna.



**Retreat at the Curragh.** The troops in training at the Curragh were afforded a new and beneficial experience last week, when a retreat was conducted by the Jesuit Fathers within the Camp itself. Rev. Fr. Garahy, S.J.; Rev. Fr. Devane, S.J., of the House of Retreats, Rathfarnham Castle, and Rev. Fr. Flinn, S.J., conducted the exercises of the Retreat, which opened on Sunday, 11th inst., and closed on Sunday last. Each morning Masses, following by a short instruction, were celebrated at 7 and 8 o'clock in St. Brigid's Church, troops being paraded at each Mass. In the evening the fine wooden church, capable of accommodating about 1,500, was completely filled for Rosary, Sermon and Benediction. Confessions were heard daily, special facilities being given for each of the seven barracks. Notwithstanding the difficulties attendant upon the organisation of this new training centre of the Army, and the departures and arrivals of troops, the Retreat was a decided success, and was much appreciated by the men. A number of officers set an excellent example to the men by their regular attendance at the exercises. The Cadets stationed in the Camp were also zealous in promoting the welfare of the Mission.

As a result of the Retreat, the movement for the spread of temperance in the Army has been considerably advanced, a

COPYRIGHT MILITARY ARCHIVES

## Characteristics of Modern War

It is necessary to the soldier that he should have a thorough and exact understanding of what is really meant by the term "war." It is, therefore, essential to fix definitely the general features of war, particularly its **object** and **means** and the goal which is to be aimed at, in his own country, so that the soldier may find in its study the basis of his tactics.

"War," says Clausewitz, "is produced by, and receives its form from, the ideas, feelings and relations which obtain at the moment it breaks out."

### National Strategy.

It must be apparent that the strategy which would apply in any one country would be largely determined by a number of factors peculiar to that country. "Evidently enough," says Foch in his Lectures, "were I to speak about strategy and general tactics in Brussels instead of in Paris, my study would bear on a particular form of war. The situation of Belgium is known to you: a neutrality guaranteed by Europe, which is perhaps nothing more than a word, but has, in any case, hitherto (1903) guaranteed the existence of that little State; further, the immediate neighbourhood of two great Powers, Germany and France, from neither of which does any serious military obstacle separate that State, by either of which it might be easily conquered if the other neighbour, or Europe as a whole, did not intervene in the struggle.

"The special theory of war that would have to be presented to the Belgian Army would have a well-determined object, namely, that of delaying as much as possible the advance of the invading neighbour. The study would then consist in finding out how the Belgian Army can perform such a part, avoiding the **decision** by arms and **adjourning** the judgment by battle.

sodality having been formed towards this end. The pioneers, who are an appreciable body in the Camp, have banded themselves into a local group.

This venture, perhaps the first of its kind in the Regular Army, has demonstrated very clearly the value of religion as a factor in the building up of a sound and healthy tradition amongst the Regular forces. It is of inestimable worth in raising the tone and mental outlook of the rank and file, and in promoting that **esprit de corps** and comradeship we wish to see cultivated at our very inception. A high sense of honour and discipline are essential to the Army of to-day. Officers would do well, therefore, to utilise by example and otherwise the powerful means which Religion provides for the creation of this spirit.

"Such a conclusion would necessarily influence the whole military state of the nation: organisation, mobilisation, armament, fortification, as well as the instruction of the troops, not excluding the training of the company and the individual private."

### Determining Factors.

As with Belgium, so with Ireland. A national system of defence must be devised here, which shall take account of the peculiar geographical features, the extent of the national resources and the form, which a hostile attack might be expected to assume.

A different situation presents itself in each country requiring a distinct handling. From this it would be an error to conclude that there is no such thing in warfare as an absolute theory, and that one has only to deal with **contingencies**. "Let us," says Foch, "simply and first be aware of the existence, in the study we are making, of the **concrete case**; in that concrete case, one of our data is evidently found in the geographical position of a State, from which

### NECESSITY OF NATIONAL STRATEGY.

"Whoever writes on strategy and on tactics ought to confine himself to teaching **NATIONAL strategy and tactics only, for no other can be profitable to the nation he is addressing.**"—Von der Goltz.

we must start in order to establish the theory which will allow us to reach a specifically national end. To such a geographical position we must add the political, financial, military state of the nation, also the shape of the territory, the situation of its neighbours, the nature of the rights to be defended or the claims to be asserted by it—all things which differentiate a given nation from all the other Powers."

Time is another factor which must be taken into account. Sometimes it suffices for a nation to require from her army only the means of supporting, if needs be, by some armed demonstration, "a cabinet policy, that is, a **diplomatic policy**" based on admitted international conventions. This restricted type of warfare, **diplomatic war**, which proves adequate at certain periods, also demands study and particular training of the army in order that it may be effectively conducted. In order to conquer, it is sufficient that one should be more ambitious and stronger than the adversary. "It is not necessary to be very ambitious and very strong if he has but little strength or ambition."

### Progress Essential.

But such a theory of warfare would be no longer of service in face of an ambitious and powerful enemy. This fact, according

to Foch, explains the disastrous result, for France, of the campaign conducted against her by Prussia in 1870. During the period of European exhaustion which followed the Napoleonic campaigns, France was enabled to retain her status as a power by adopting the diplomatic weapon. It was because she had ignored the radical transformation in her neighbours which had been effected by 1870 that France then became its victim.

"To a people in arms," says Marshal Foch, "organised for conquest, invasion, a fight to a finish, we opposed a damaged tool, a reduced army, an army recruited amongst the poorest and least instructed part of the nation, as well as the processes of the eighteenth century . . . which could only do for a diplomatic war, for a war with a limited end. It is because the whole of Europe has now come back to the national thesis, and therefore to armed nations, that we stand compelled to-day to take up again the **absolute** concept of war, such as it results from history. . . . Our models and the facts upon which we will base a theory, we must seek in certain **definite** pages of history, namely, from that period of the French Revolution when the whole nation was arming itself for the defence of its dearest interests: Independence, Liberty. . . ."

### Lesson for To-Day.

By this, it is not urged that one should follow a pre-conceived idea or fixed system. This is an age of railways and aircraft. Coaches were useful in their day. To-day the coach is not the means one should adopt to travel fast and well. This is emphasised in the explanation offered by Clausewitz of the causes which led to Napoleon's victories:

"Under the energetic leadership of Bonaparte, the French, treading underfoot the ancient **processes** of warfare, undertook the conquest of Europe with a wonderful and hitherto unexperienced success. Upsetting everything in their way, they sometimes, at their very first stroke, shook to its foundation the most powerful State." Looking to the future which might perhaps overlook the fundamental lessons of these wars, Clausewitz added:

"Who knows whether, within a few generations, people will not again take a fancy for the **old fencing and for the antiquated methods**; whether Bonaparte's **fights and battles will not then be condemned as being acts of barbarity**?"

"All the efforts of military writers must tend to warning against these dangerous errors. May Heaven grant our labours to extend wholesome influence over the minds of the men whom He has marked out for directing the Government and the affairs of our dear country!"

From that wish the Prussian General Staff was born. It arose, according to Foch, from the dropping of "the old fencing and antiquated methods"; from the conscientious study of Napoleon's

## The Symbols of an Army

There is much beauty and significance in the symbols of an army. The salute, the presenting of arms, the Last Post, and the rest, common to all armies, have each a distinctive meaning. A salute means: I recognise your authority, I honour the commission you bear, I realise we are all bound together in fealty and service to the one Motherland. Arms presented, in which, as it were, the rifles are held not as ready to be fired, but as ready to be given to some one else, means: My arms belong to you, and though I wield a weapon of offence, I do not wield it for myself, but for you and for my country.

### The Colours—What They Signify.

The colours are symbolic of the soul of the nation, if they be the national colours. If they are particular to a Brigade, they stand for the soul and traditions of the Brigade, and for that reason must not appear without an escort. The colours fly not only for the living, but for all in Division or Brigade who have died for Ireland; not only as an augury of battles to be won, but as a token of every victory in the past which has brought honour to the flag.

All bugle-calls, from the Reveille to the Last Post, denote that a soldier's life is a watch and a vigil. He does not go by the clock, or claim any time as his own, but gives obedience instant upon the demand of his superior. The note of the bugle is the call of the nation to men bearing arms.

### Respect for the Uniform.

Honour is universally paid to the soldier in every democratic and normally-governed country in the world, because in putting off his own clothes, and putting on the uniform of the National Army, he gives up his own free will to be obedient to the country's will; he relinquishes his birthright of freedom, taking up voluntarily the yoke of sacrifice.

When a soldier dies, the tri-colour is laid on his body, as symbolic of the fact that he died in the service of his country. It is sweet to die for one's country, says the Latin poet, Horace. It is of greater moment still to die honourably in that

battles . . . as the only means of warfare in the truest sense of the word.

"Let us profit by this," he continues. "Let us begin . . . by setting aside the 'ancient processes,' the fancy for 'old fencing,' the 'antiquated methods' . . ." War to be successful must be national in principle and a matter of movement and shock in practice. All this is not without its lessons for the Irish army of to-day.

(To be continued).

## sceula na seachtáine

### CURSAI-REATHA.

Do réir gach deallraimh dó dheineadar na teachtaí, abhí le goirid i gcomhairle a chéile i Lúndun, na córáití do chur díobh go bog réidh; agus, murar éirigh leo gach aon cheist do réiteach, do tháineadar ar aon aigne um gach aon cheist tábhachtach.

### An Bun Reacht Nua.

Bun Reacht nua na hEireann abhí á bplé aca, agus, gan ach puinntí beaga, deineadh socrú eatortha. Ach níltear réidh leis go fóill. Ní mór na fo cheisteanna úd do chur tré chéile d'fhonn gach taob aca do shásamh. Na dhiaidh san, cuirfear fé bhráid párlaiméid Seana Shasana féin é, agus déanfar iad do scrúdú go cruinn, baileach ag lorg lúb ar lár éigin ionnta. Agus, is dócha go ndéanfaidh an Dáil nua a sgaga go mion cruinn leis. Nílimid ag bacaint fe láthair le caint an fhir thall. 'Sí an cheist atá ar Ghaeil anois ná cad do dhéanfaidh an Dáil nua sa chúis. Sin í an fhadhb.

### Dearbhú na Dála Nua.

Is iongantach an t-suim a chuireann cuid des na daoinibh thall 'nár gcúrsaí gnóthá fós. Bhí ana bhuaireamh aigne ar dhuine bhocht aca mar gheall ar an ndearbhú a dhéinfear sa Dáil

sacred service, reflecting by one's death added lustre on the colours of the army and the nation. The reversal of arms at a funeral are an acknowledgment of the victory of the spiritual life over the mortal life of man. Death puts the rifle to shame, and the reversed arms are a fitting sign of reverence. It provides part of the atmosphere of military mourning.

The shots fired over the grave are the last salute from the comrades of the dead soldier to his soul passing on its way to Eternity.

### The Last Post.

The Last Post, most solemn and beautiful of all calls, sounded when darkness has shrouded the earth with the pall of night, is the Nunc Dimittis of the dead soldier. It is the last bugle-call. As you stand in silent, impassive reverence about the newly-dug grave in which a dead comrade is lying, it seems as if in a sepulchral way he must also hear its solemn sad reverberations; the last voice, as it were, of all things earthly, persistently calling, and then faintly dying away.

It is the last call, but it gives promise of reveille, of the great reveille which Gabriel, the Trumpeter of the Heavens, will ultimately sound:

"From the hid battlements of Eternity."

The symbols of an army are equally as important to its life as the greater symbols of the Church are an essential of the Church's ritual. They ought to have an elevating and inspiring effect on its life, showing the Army at its highest and best.

nua. Do hinnseadh do ná beadh ar an Dáil aon sórt leabhair do thabhairt. Do bhain sé codladh na hoíche den chréatúr.

### Breall ort a Mhic ó.

Chuaidh sé ag triall ar anam chara, Churchill. Mo léan géar, is suarach an sólas do fuair sé. Dubhairt Churchill go tur leis ná raibh an Saorstát ann in aon chor fós, agus, dá bhrí sin, ná raibh ceangailte ar an Dáil aon dearbú do dhéanamh. Thuit an lug ar an lag ar mo dhuine bhocht. Dubharthas gur éaluigh sé leis féin ag bog-chrónán.

"Ní coga 'tá nois uainn  
Ach más gá dhúinn buala rís  
Táid na fir againn is airgead  
Gan tagairt do n-ár bhflít."

### An Fhirinne in Uachtar da Sheirbhe í.

Ach, 'na choinne sin thall, ní misde cuid den chaint do dhein Commander Kenworthy, M.P., do sháthadh isteach ansó leis. Ag caint i Chippenham do, dubhairt sé nár theasduigh ó mhuintir Shasna go ndéinfí aon iarracht ar Eirinn d'athghabhail. Is amhlaidh do bheidis go daingean láidir i gcoinne aon iarracht dá shaghas. 'Sa chéad dul síos ní raibh aon airgead aca chun a leithéid d'obair conaig, amadánta do chuir ar siúl. B'é a thuairimse, leis, gur cuireadh bárr ar an áiféis nuair deineadh ollfhórsaí na himpireachta do sheoladh i gcoinne gasra beag fear, ar luigh-ead arm teine, d'fhonn seilbh do thógaint i bpaistín beag tailimh sa tuaisceart thoir. Ba léir, adubhairt sé, go raibh daoine údarásacha Lúndun nó i mBéal Féirste agus ní raibh uatha ach guth an fhocail chun na gunnaí do chur ag pléascadh. Bhíodar san ag séideadh fé dhaoine eile d'fhonn iad do chuir i gcohall a chéile.

### Caint agus Cómhairle De Valera.

Ag tagairt don phacta do deineadh le déanaí idir an dá pháirtí sa Dáil, dubhairt de Valera, ag caint dó ag cruinniú a bhí i Magh Ealla, gó taobh aca ná Eire bheith chó saor le haon eanna áirithe, 'na thaobh san is uile, bhí a lán ceist eile agus bhíodar go léir ar aon aigne mar gheall ortha. Bhí fíor ghrá ag gach taobh aca da dtírín dílis féin. 'Sé a bhí ó gach taobh aca ná Eire bheith chó saor le haon náisiún eile ar dhruim talmhan. B'é mian gach Gael ná muintir na tíre d'feicsint fé rath, fé shonas agus fé shéan arís.

### Udáras le Linn Cogaidh.

Mar gheall ar an gcoga agus an cuma abhí ar an tír le cúpla blian anuas, is minic dob' éigin do dhaoine nó do ghasra daoine neithe do dheanamh ar a gcomhairle féin 'na slí féin. Coga bheith ar siúl sa tír do thug an ceart san dóibh.

Níorb' fhluláir an ceart agus an árd chomhacht úd do thabhairt suas anois agus iad d'fhágaint fé udáras an rialtais do bhí toghtha ag an náisiún chun gnó an náisiúin do stiúiriú. D'aon ghnó chun na neithe sin do thabairt chun cinn agus d'fhonn riar, eagar agus órdú do chuir ar an dtír arís, seadh, do deineadh an réiteach.

SEÁN.

## AN t-OGLACH

JUNE 24, 1922.

## Our Future

In this, the first issue of AN t-OGLACH available to the general public, we may be pardoned for dwelling with some pride upon the services rendered to the cause of Irish freedom by the official organ of the Irish Republican Army. In a sense it can be said that AN t-OGLACH symbolised the Army, its fate and fortunes; like the Army it led a secret, furtive existence, successfully defying all enemy activities against it. It can also be claimed in a sense that AN t-OGLACH helped to make the Army what it was and to make the war. It developed the Volunteer mind and the Volunteer outlook; it made the officers and men of the Army realise more fully their duties and responsibilities; it pointed out the directions their activities should take; it gave useful instructions on military matters especially adapted to the needs and circumstances of the Irish Republican Army; it helped to keep the rank and file in touch with the ideas and outlook of those in control of the Army. It was in AN t-OGLACH that the idea of guerilla warfare was first adumbrated, and many articles appeared dealing with means and methods of carrying on this kind of operations. During the days of the Black and Tans there can be no doubt that the continued weekly appearance of AN t-OGLACH and the cheering news which it was able to impart contributed largely to keeping up the splendid morale of the fighting men of Ireland in that period of trial. One of the biggest compliments to the value of AN t-OGLACH was the fierce and incessant war waged upon it by the enemy. Savage sentences were imposed upon men found in possession of a copy, and the British went to the trouble of printing and distributing in the South of Ireland leaflets in which AN t-OGLACH was fiercely abused and its statements contradicted. Raids and sentences failed to locate the printing press of AN t-OGLACH. The history of AN t-OGLACH during those four years is dealt with in another column. Save for a very brief period of dislocation the writing, printing and distribution of AN t-OGLACH went on with weekly punctuality through the hottest period of the war, a source of encouragement and counsel to the fighting men.

AN t-OGLACH now appears under changed conditions and the task before it is a different one, not so onerous and important perhaps, but none the less an essential service. It is our ambition to make AN t-OGLACH in its new form a journal worthy of its traditions. Just as we wish our Army not to follow slavishly the traditions of a foreign army so we wish AN t-OGLACH not to follow slavishly the traditions of any other official periodical. We want to make it the guide, companion, friend and servant of the Irish soldier. We wish through it to foster a just pride in the glorious traditions of our Army, and an *esprit de corps* which will make the Irish soldier respected everywhere. We hope to use its columns in

## A Heroic Episode in the Fight

Owing mainly to war conditions, reports of many engagements of outstanding merit did not receive the publicity they deserved. It is proposed, therefore, to republish, from time to time, accounts of engagements which appeared in the war issues of "An t-Oglach," and which of necessity had then a limited circulation. We have no doubt they will be read now by the rank and file and the general public with very real interest. Early in the present month over 1,000 Irish soldiers paid tribute to the memory of three comrades interred in Meelick Churchyard. In the issue of "An t-Oglach" dated July 22nd, 1921, an officer of the Brigade chronicles the engagement in which these brave Claremen took part, as follows:—

"On the 10th June a party of four Volunteers of the East Clare Brigade, while engaged in cutting wires on the railway at Meelick, were surprised by a party of thirty enemy military with two machine guns. Owing to an accidental shot being mistaken for the dismiss signal, all the outposts had withdrawn, and the enemy, travelling in a train with steam off and down hill, swept round a turn on the four men without any warning. The train pulled up at once, and fire was opened by the enemy at close range. The O.C. of our men, who was up on a telegraph pole at the time, shouted a warning, and the other three dashed away, two to one side and one to the other, he himself only having time to jump behind a low bank beside the railway when fire opened. M. Gleeson and C. McCarthy got some distance up the

chronicling the many stirring and hitherto unpublished chapters in the history of the late war. We hope through it to brighten the life of the barracks, to stimulate an intelligent interest in matters that concern us all and to afford a means for the discussion of various matters that affect the Irish Army. We hope through it to encourage and assist the study and use of the Irish Language by officers and men. We hope to stimulate a lively interest in athletics, to the physical and mental benefit of all concerned. We hope too, through the medium of articles, to interest young officers in the higher branches of military studies. We hope, with the co-operation of officers and men, to make AN t-OGLACH the faithful chronicler of all Army news and gossip. Contributions and letters on topics of Army interest, when suitable, will find ready publication in our columns.

The intense interest shown by the people generally in our Army and the important part which it plays in our national life at the present time have induced us to make AN t-OGLACH accessible to the general public. We wish also to avail ourselves of the opportunity of giving the widest publicity to the many little known records of the late war.

field when McCarthy fell wounded. Gleeson went on, but on reaching a place of safety he found his companion missing, and on seeing him lying wounded in the field he immediately started back again.

## Under Heavy Fire.

"A machine gun and about a dozen rifles were playing on the field about 100 yards range, while a party of five soldiers crossed up to cut off the retreat of the two men. It must have been as evident to Gleeson as it was to my informants, who were looking on, that no power on earth could have saved McCarthy, but apparently he preferred going back and dying with his comrade to leaving him. He raced down under a hail of bullets, lifted up McCarthy and brought him up across the field with his left arm around him, while he fired back at the pursuing soldiers with his revolver. A little further up Gleeson fell badly wounded and McCarthy struggled on. When the soldiers came up on him, this hero of 20 years of age, who was never before in action, lying wounded and dying on the ground, was still unconquered. In his last moments he fired his last cartridge, and, according to the British O.C. (a Lieut. Gordan, Royal Scots), he drew his last breath and pulled his trigger on an empty case together. He pulled again after his last shot, but his revolver was empty. The British Officer, who was through the European War, stated Gleeson was the bravest man he had ever seen.

## A Subordinate's Bravery.

"At the other side of the railway another feat was performed. The O.C. had jumped down from the pole behind a low wall. While he remained flat he was under cover, but immediately he stirred he would be seen, as the train with the enemy in it was only a few feet from him. To get away he had to stand up and get over a thick fence of wire and hedge. His companion (1st Lieut. A. Coy., 2nd Battn.), got away on getting the first alarm, but on missing his O.C. he came back again. He sized up the situation immediately, seeing that if he could attract the attention of the enemy he might succeed in getting his O.C. away. He immediately opened fire with a Martini rifle, and hit one soldier twice when he attempted to get out of the carriage. One of the machine-guns and nine or ten rifles were trained on him, but he stood his ground behind a pier until his O.C. succeeded in getting to cover. His rifle jammed after a few shots, but when the enemy saw one of their comrades badly wounded no further diversion was needed to make them turn their attention to their own men."

Joseph de Maistre wrote: "A battle lost is a battle one thinks one has lost, for a battle cannot be lost physically." "Therefore, it can only be lost morally. But, then," says Foch, "it is morally also that a battle is won, and we may extend the aphorism by saying: A battle won is a battle in which one will not confess oneself beaten."

## AN t-OGLACH

A JOURNAL WITH A HISTORY  
SOME INTERESTING REVELATIONS

Any history of AN t-OGLACH would be incomplete without some reference to a journal which was in a sense its predecessor. The Volunteers from their inception in 1913 possessed an official organ known as *The Irish Volunteer* which after many vicissitudes came to an end in Easter Week, 1916. This paper undoubtedly did great and valuable service in the building up of an effective Volunteer Army and creating that outlook and mentality which displayed themselves so dramatically in the heroic deeds of Easter Week.

*The Irish Volunteer* was originally published by the proprietor of the *Enniscorthy Echo* who sought and obtained from the Provisional Committee who controlled the Volunteers, permission to describe it as the "Official Organ of the Irish Volunteers" on condition that all matter to be published in it be first submitted to a member of the Provisional Committee. On the writer of this article devolved the thankless duty of acting as censor. The first editor was Mr. Larry de Lacy, to be later known to fame as the first man "on the run" in our campaign. Mr. de Lacy threw himself into his work with characteristic energy and enthusiasm.

## A Chequered Career.

The invasion of the Provisional Committee by Mr. Redmond's nominees rendered the position of the official organ a difficult and delicate one and the censor's work a troublesome task. From the outset the newcomers regarded *The Irish Volunteer* with suspicion and hostility and the outbreak of the European War brought matters to a head. *The Irish Volunteer* did not advocate recruiting for England; it told the people to concentrate their minds on Ireland instead of Belgium; and this was the subject of bitter complaint by Mr. Redmond's nominees. At a stormy meeting at the Dublin City Hall (at which these advocates of Constitutionalism attacked us with their fists and produced revolvers) a resolution was carried disestablishing the *Irish Volunteer* as official organ. The split in the Volunteers followed immediately after this; and the proprietor having discontinued the journal, it was decided to publish it in Dublin, under the editorship of Eoin Mac Neill.

## Enemy Activities.

In course of time the paper aroused the wrath of the British Government whose method in Ireland at this time to suppress a journal was by striking at the printers and thus making other printers unwilling to risk the undertaking. By this means they obtained their object without the obloquy of a formal suppression. Mr. Patrick Mahon, the present printer of AN t-OGLACH, was victimised even in these early days for printing the *Irish Volunteer*, his machinery being dismantled and taken away, and for some time the paper had to be printed in Belfast, by an Orange firm whom the British Government were not

prepared to strike at. However, the paper continued to appear under the editorship of Eoin Mac Neill, though dwindling in size owing to the paper famine, up to the eve of the 1916 Insurrection. By that time it had shrunk to a small four-page sheet.

## Birth of "An t-Oglach."

For over two years the Volunteers remained without an official organ. In July, 1918, at a time when the threat of Conscription by England had given a big stimulus to the recruiting for and organisation of the Irish Volunteers, the Executive that then controlled the Volunteers conceived the idea of printing and publishing secretly an official organ for circulation amongst the men. The project at the time was considered a daring and difficult one. Michael Collins, who then combined the positions of Adjutant General and Director of Organisation, interested himself actively in the project and all the details in connection with the printing and distribution of the organ were carried out by officials of his department. The writer, then "on the run," was appointed editor and has had the honour to hold that position ever since. On August 31st, 1918, the first issue of the familiar little four-page paper, so hated by the British, appeared.

"Hero-worship and comradeship, pride in one's nation, and equal pride in one's regiment, ideals as triumphant as the colours themselves, living interest and enthusiasm in all ranks—these are the true substitutes for fear and punishment and military law."—  
Stephen Graham.

## Its Production.

The "make-up" consisted of an editorial, general notes, and a series of contributions from the various departments, and it may be remarked that in those early days about the most regular contributor of departmental notes was Michael Collins. At this time G.H.Q. used to meet weekly and it was usual for the editor to submit his leading articles and notes to the meetings so as to make sure that they accurately interpreted the mind of G.H.Q. It was published twice a month, on the fifteenth and last days of each month. It is no harm at this lapse of time to reveal that the paper was set by hand and printed at the Gaelic Press, Liffey Street for a considerable period. At a later date, as will be shown in due course, we set up a secret printing office of our own which escaped detection during the hottest periods of the Irish War.

The Gaelic Press was frequently raided and on one occasion at least matter for AN t-OGLACH set up in type was lying on a table when the place was invaded by police, but the intelligent detectives failed to identify it. Although unable to prove anything, it was evident that the British authorities all along suspected the Gaelic Press of printing AN t-OGLACH and this was the reason of their relentless persecution of Mr. Stanley, which ultimately compelled him to shut up shop.

## Army Sport

A meeting was held at Headquarters, 1st Eastern Division, Trim, on Thursday, 15th June, to discuss the best method of fostering Gaelic games and athletics in the Division. Comdt. Gen. Seán Boylan presided, and there were also present the majority of the Divisional Staff and representatives of all Brigades and Companies of the Regular Army in the Division and O.C.'s and Staffs of Mullingar and Naas Military Barracks.

After a full discussion it was decided that Volunteer Brigades and Regular Army Units be treated as equal Units in competition. Comdt. Gen. Boylan proposed and Brigade Comdt. T. Lawler seconded that inter-Unit Football and Hurling Competitions be started for sets of medals. As a beginning one hurling and one football team is to be organised in each Unit, and the Brigades are to try and organise teams in Battalions and Companies and hold Brigade competitions.

The question of athletics was next discussed and it was decided that Athletic Clubs be formed in every Brigade and Barrack, and that training of likely men be taken up at once in all branches of athletics with a view to entering a Divisional Team for the Tailteann Games. Some O.C.'s reported that this was being done already and good progress being made in Boxing, Swimming, Running, Weight Throwing, etc. At the next meeting a Committee will be formed to govern all forms of athletics in the Division. It is intended to hold a Divisional Sports at intervals.

The Athletic Committee of the 2nd Eastern Division is pushing forward vigorously with the organisation of Army sports. Orders have been placed for equipment for several teams and a set of 15 gold and 18 silver medals have been presented for competition.

## Its Effect.

The paper from the start met with a warm welcome from Volunteers and aroused the fury of the British Government. Men found in possession of a copy of AN t-OGLACH were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. This persecution only made people more anxious to secure a copy of the "secret" organ, and the encouragement, advice and instruction contained in its columns profoundly affected the outlook and mentality of the Volunteers throughout the country. During these early days the European War was in progress and AN t-OGLACH was able to publish a good deal of secret information with regard to the war which the British censorship had succeeded in suppressing. It could boast at that time of being the only uncensored paper in Ireland.

(To be continued).

## Care of Marching Men

By an Army Medical Officer.

No more severe test can be imposed upon fresh and partly trained troops than prolonged marching. A man suffering from any disability should not be taken on the march, unless of course in the case of grave military necessity.

### Preparations for the March.

The men should have as much rest as possible before "falling in." There should be no previous parades on that day. They should have a light breakfast. Clothing and equipment should be easy-fitting and clean. Boots and socks should be particularly watched, as even a pin-head blister can become rather mountainous after a few miles' marching. The choice of socks is quite as important as that of boots; they should be perfectly-fitting, smooth and clean. The feet themselves should also be clean. (Men on active duty should be made wash the feet twice daily).

Equipment should be comfortably adjusted and the water bottles filled. Tea, when cold, is a very good thirst quencher.

### Length of March.

Of course, we are not considering "forced marches" or "competition marches," in which men may cover very great distances in one day, and require a week off duty afterwards. We are merely taking good average marching, which is about fifteen miles per day. This may seem small, but between halts for various reasons, directly connected with the comfort of the men, this is quite a sufficient distance to cover. A good deal more can be done, but when the objective is reached, the men are "played out." Of course, the smaller a formation is, the farther it can march in a day. Men marching on good roads in temperate weather can do more than, say, men marching through boggy plains in wet or very warm weather. A band is the greatest asset to a marching column. It keeps the men in step, encourages them to sing or whistle, thus employing their minds, and helping them to forget the weight of rifle and pack. It may look well to have men marching with every button in its place and every strap buckled, but it does not feel well for the men. They should be allowed loosen straps and tunics in warm weather, and carry the rifle in an easy position, and march in as open formation as possible. Straggling should be prevented—a few stragglers demoralise a battalion. Smoking or chewing tobacco on the march is not helpful. Marching is, more or less, an athletic feat, and there are very good reasons for, say, marathon runners not smoking in a twenty-mile race. In the first place, it leads to thirst, and consequent recourse to the water bottle; secondly, it does not help a man's heart.

## ATHLETICS IN 2nd EASTERN DIVISION.

Considerable advance was made with regard to the organisation of Athletic Committees in the 2nd Eastern Division, at the meeting of the general Executive held at G.H.Q. on Wednesday, 14th inst. For one thing it was decided that each company in the Division should appoint its own Committee, to cater for the various forms of sport within its own unit. A general Executive, to whom each company will send one delegate, will look after the affairs of the Division as a whole. Possibly some members of the Executive with some of those chosen on the first Army Committee will go to form what may be termed a Divisional Board, which in turn will link up with an All-Ireland Army Athletic Executive. At all events the first step towards placing the organisation of sport in the Army on a proper basis has been taken. With a little more effort and good-will an effective machinery to control and direct sport activities should be in operation.

The question of procuring suitable outfits for teams—both hurling and football—will be one of the first concerns of the Company Committees. This is a matter requiring immediate attention, in order that our teams may get into training without delay. It was well, therefore, that the General Executive appointed a Purchases' Sub-Committee empowered to invite tenders and procure supplies for the entire Division. The personnel of the Committee are Comdt. Guilfoyle, S/Capt. Griffin, and Dr. Ryan. How soon our teams are ready to take the field will depend largely upon the expeditious work of this body.

The Dublin Guards are forging ahead with their preparations for a sports meeting to be held at Portobello on July 9th. Other Brigades would do well to follow their example. Not until trial events are run in each Brigade can the best material for the coming Army Sports be discovered. Dr. Ryan at the Executive Meeting rightly stressed the importance of holding trial sports events in

### Halts.

All formation on the march should be halted soon after starting, and at intervals afterwards. Suitable halting places should be chosen, and the sanitary squad should take charge and see that no unnecessary fouling of the site takes place. On these halts men should not be allowed to drink any water from drains, wells, pumps, etc., until the source of the water and water are examined by the M.O. Water bottles should be kept perfectly clean and "scalded" with boiling water frequently.

When the column is large and the halt of some duration, proper field latrines and urine pits should be dug and filled in afterwards—turf being properly replaced. It may be well to reiterate that none but men in perfect health should be taken on the march. In marching it is certainly a case of the survival of the fittest, and the weakest are bound to go to the wall and lie down beside it.

## Army News in Brief

A party of Engineers have left Tulla No. 2 Station, under Capt. A. Hannon, to undergo a further course of training at the Curragh Camp.

Regular troops have been transferred from Killaloe No. 1 Station to Connemara Training Centre. The party was in charge of Capt. McCarthy and Capt. Nugent.

Killaloe No. 1 Station has been occupied by Regular troops in charge of Capt. O'Dea, from Tulla No. 1 Station.

Dr. P. J. Duggan has been appointed eye specialist to the Army.

The party of Regular troops, until recently stationed in Ceanannus Mór on special duty, have been withdrawn.

Articles on Radiotelegraphy, Trench Mortar Bombs and T.N.T. are unavoidably held over.

### MEATH SOLDIER'S TRAGIC END.

Private Patrick Mooney of the Permanent Guard at Divisional Headquarters, Trim, was fatally injured in a motor accident near Slane Castle, Co. Meath, on Saturday morning the 17th inst. Brigade Police Officer Hughes and Lieut. T. Lynch, Adjutant Trim Barrack, were seriously injured and are being treated at County Infirmery, Navan. Brigade-Adjt. Coyle and the following men of the Trim Permanent Guard are in the County Hospital, Navan, being treated for various minor injuries: Sergt. MacManus, Driver Murphy, Privates Murphy, Brady and O'Neill. The deceased soldier who was only eighteen years of age, and was in the Army for the past four years, is deeply regretted by the Divisional Staff and his comrades, the Officers and men of Trim Barrack and the 3rd Meath Brigade. He always proved himself a brave, efficient and intelligent soldier and was specially marked for promotion at the time of his death. Solus na bhFlaitheas d'a anam.

At a Coroner's inquest in Navan on Saturday, 17th inst., a verdict of accidental death was returned and the jury found that no blame attached to anybody for the accident. There is conclusive evidence that the accident was unforeseen and unavoidable and that the driver did all that was humanly possible to avert it.

every barracks at the earliest moment. They are the best stimulus to athletic endeavour can be provided. The Executive have directed each Brigade to form a Sports Committee of its own to promote trial events in preparation for the coming Army Sports. It is up to every Brigade Staff, with the interests of their men at heart, to throw themselves with zest and enthusiasm into the work. On the efforts of the Brigade and Company Committees will depend the success of the entire athletic movement in the Division.

## Meaning of an Irish Army

In Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin, lie the remains of a man to whom, perhaps, more than to any other, may be attributed the Ireland of to-day. He was Thomas Osborne Davis, who, in the short period during which he occupied the stage of Irish public affairs, did more than any of his contemporaries to forward the national position. His untimely death in September, 1845, resulted in the collapse of the great Repeal movement which he alone could have steered to success. "It was an ill-fate for Ireland that prevented him being the leader, as well as the teacher of his generation." It may not be amiss to draw the attention of Irish soldiers to the interpretation which this patriot put upon a national army such as is now being organised and perfected to defend Ireland's newly-won rights.

### An Armed Nation.

"To carry arms," he writes, "is the first right of man, for arms are the guardians of property, honour, and life. God gave weapons, as well as clothing, to the lion and the eagle; but to man he gave skill to furnish himself with all bodily comforts, and with weapons to defend them, and all his other rights, against every assailant, be he the beast of the forest or the tyrant of society.

### The Badge of Freemen.

"Disarmament and slavery were convertible terms in every age. The conquering barbarians forbade the Romans to bear arms; the Normans forbade the Saxons to carry arms; the Spaniards tore their arms from the Americans—the English took arms from Ireland whenever they dared. . . .

"Other institutions apart, nations have been externally secure, and internally free, in proportion as their citizens were trained to and possessed arms. And the laws of all nations pretending to freedom, from Athens to England, sanctified this right by special and solemn laws. Ireland in this, as in other things, has been treated by England, not as a nation, nor yet as a portion of herself, but as a rightless dependant—an injured slave, disarmed and disabled—starved, chained, darkened and prisoned—lest she should resume her rights or avenge her sufferings.

"A nominal independence might co-exist with disarmament. A Parliament might be suffered here without a militia, but it would be like that Senate which marked our slavery from the Treaty of Limerick (when our Regular Army capitulated), till 1782 brought us a Declaration of Rights, witness by 80,000 armed men."

"When the Irish read and reflect with Davis," says a distinguished Irishman of the present generation, "the day of their redemption will be at hand." This is sufficient in itself to commend the teachings

## Poison Gas Weapons

### THE LIVENS PROJECTOR.

The Somme offensive witnessed the employment by the British of a new gas weapon, which attained to great importance in the chemical campaign. This was the mortar known as the Livens Projector. It was the invention of a British engineer, Major (then Lieut.) Livens, D.S.O., M.C., of the Signal Corps. Realising the tactical weakness of the German method, as employed in the Ypres poison gas attack, apart from its vast initial possibilities of surprise, he set about devising an apparatus which would render the use of poison gas more effective as a military weapon. In a few months he had decided upon the general principles of his projector and a first crude specimen was produced.

### First Crude Apparatus.

The gas organisation and the preparations for the Loos attack absorbed all his attention and energies for some time, and the consequent reorganisation found him developing a flammenwerfer and training a Company in its use. It was really the Somme battle which provided him with the first opportunity of carrying his idea into offensive practice. It was in front of High Wood, which was a veritable nest of German machine gunners in such a critical tactical position as to bar the advance of the British troops in that particular region. The huge stationary flame Projector had recently been used by Major Livens and his Company against a strong German position before Carnoy.

The effect of flame was even more limited there than that of cloud gas, by reason of its dependence on a fixed emplacement. It was, therefore, quickly grasped that the solution was to be sought in the application of the Projector principle to the use of oil for flame, and a crude projector was soon devised to meet the emergency. Oil cans were used as mortars. These were buried in the earth for two-thirds of their length, and water cans were utilised as bombs.

### The Arras Attack.

When the possibilities of the weapon were seen its development was pressed. The usual Livens Projector consisted of a simple tube mortar closed at one end and fitted with a charge box upon which rested the projectile. By an electrical arrangement and suitable communications, large numbers, sometimes thousands, of these projectors could be discharged at a given moment. In this way quantities of gas, comparable with the huge tonnages employed in the normal stationary cloud attack, could be used as a cloud which

of Thomas Davis to Irish soldiers, who are now entrusted with the high duty of guarding the national independence which their heroism has won.

would originate as such, sometimes as much as a mile distant from the place of discharge.

This meant that the advantages of cloud gas attack could be secured with a much smaller dependence on wind direction, and with a much greater factor of local surprise. Thus, when the partly perfected weapon was used in large quantities during the British offensive at Arras in April, 1917, the German Army was thrown into great confusion. But for the fact that protective measures had been so widely developed on both sides, it is said that the Livens Projector would have gone a long way in deciding the war.

### Deadly Form of Warfare.

With a view to illustrating the peculiar value of the new device, Victor Lefebure quotes from a few of the many Intelligence reports collected by the British. From a captured document, dated July, 1917, belonging to the 111th German Division, and signed Von Busse, it appears: "The enemy has combined in this new process the advantages of gas clouds and gas shells. The density is equal to that of gas clouds, and the surprise effect of shell-fire is also obtained. For the bombardment, the latter part of the night is generally chosen in a calm or light wind (the direction of the latter is immaterial). The enemy aims essentially at surprise. Our losses have been serious up to now, as he has succeeded in the majority of cases in surprising us, and masks have often been put on too late. . . . As soon as a loud report like a mine is heard 1,000 to 1,500 metres away give the gas alarm. It does not matter if several false alarms are given. Masks must not be taken off without orders from an officer. Men affected, even if apparently only slightly, must be treated as serious cases . . . and taken back as soon as possible for medical treatment. Anti-gas Officers and Company Commanders will go through a fresh course of training on the above principles."

The importance attached to gas discipline may be learned from further documents captured by the British. In one of these it is stated that the Germans could only attempt to "reduce their losses to a minimum by the strictest gas discipline." Again it was learned from a German prisoner that "every time a battalion goes in to rest masks are inspected, and a lecture is delivered by the Gas Officer on British gas projectors, which are stated to be the most deadly form of warfare."

The German Press began to reflect the uneasiness which prevailed among the German troops at the front, as a result of the introduction of the Projector. An endeavour was made in several leading German papers to minimise the military effectiveness of the British poison gas campaign and the casualties for which it was responsible. However, this afforded but poor consolation to the German people for the tremendous losses which they suffered at this particular period.

(To be continued).

## Appointments and Promotions

### WESTERN COMMAND.

**Comdt.-Genl. McKeon**, O/C. 1st Midland Division, to Major-General, and O/C. Western Command.

**Col.-Comdt. Lawlor**, Adjutant 1st Midland Division, to Comdt.-Genl. and Adjutant, Western Command.

**Col.-Comdt. E. J. Cooney**, Q.M. 1st Midland Division, to Comdt.-Genl. and Q.M. Western Command.

**Lt.-Comdt. Finnegan**, Asst. Q.M. 1st Midland Division to Asst. Q.M. Western Command.

**Lt.-Comdt. Cooney**, Medical Officer, 1st Midland Division, to Medical Officer, Western Command.

### MIDLAND DIVISION.

**Comdt.-Genl. MacCurtain** to be O/C.

**Col.-Comdt. Jas. Farrelly** to be Deputy O/C.

**Col.-Comdt. Woods** to be Div. Adjutant.

**Col.-Comdt. F. Davis** to be Div. Q.M.

### MIDLAND DIVISION.

**Comdt.-Genl. Simon** to be Div. O/C.

**Col.-Comdt. Sean Duffy** to be Deputy Div. O/C.

**Col.-Comdt. Patk. Madden** to be Div. Adjutant.

### No. 1 BRIGADE (SOUTH ROSCOMMON).

**Brigadier Luke Duffy** to be O/C.

**Vice-Brigadier Henry Compton** to be Deputy O/C.

**Comdt. Thos. Kelly** to be Adjutant.

**Comdt. Denis Madden** to be Q.M.

**Capt. Thos. Simon** to be A/C's and Records Officer.

### No. 1 BRIGADE 2nd W. DIVISION

**Comdt. Peter Collins** to be O/C. Roscommon Battalion.

**Capt. James McTiernan** to be Adjutant, Roscommon Battalion.

**Comdt. John Bannon** to be O/C., Summerhill Battalion.

**Capt. Thomas Kilroy** to be Adjutant, Summerhill Battalion.

**Comdt. Joseph Galvin** to be O/C., Knockroghery Battalion.

**Capt. James Cunnane** to be Adjutant, Knockroghery Battalion.

**Comdt. John Hegarty** to be O/C., Cran Battalion.

**Capt. James McGovern** to be Adjutant, Cran Battalion.

### No. 2 BRIGADE, 2nd W. DIVISION.

**Brigadier Andrew Lohan** to be O/C.

**Comdt. Charles Dillon** to be Adjutant.

**Comdt. Sean Lohan** to be O/C., Ballinamore Battalion.

**Capt. Owen Devine** to be Adjutant, Ballinamore Battalion.

**Comdt. Patrick Reynolds** to be O/C., Mountbellew Battalion.

**Capt. Martin Leahy** to be Adjutant, Mountbellew Battalion.

**Comdt. William Dolly** to be O/C., Monivea Battalion.

**Capt. J. Byrnes** to be Adjutant, Monivea Battalion.

**Comdt. Sullivan** to be O/C., Kilmaine Battalion.

**Capt. Thomas Halloran** to be Adjutant, Kilmaine Battalion.

### 3rd WESTERN DIVISION.

**Col.-Comdt. M. F. Reynolds** to be Deputy Div. O/C.

**Col.-Comdt. Alec. McCabe** to be Div. Adjutant.

**Col.-Comdt. Fallon** to be Div. Q.M.

### No. 1 BRIGADE (ROSCOMMON).

**Brigadier M. Dockery** to be O/C.

**Comdt. Hugh Lenihan** to be Dep. O/C.

**Comdt. Michael Duignan** to be Adjutant.

**Comdt. Mulcoy** to be Q.M.

**Capt. John Mulcahey** to be D.T.

### No. 2 BRIGADE (SLIGO).

**Brigadier Jas. Hunt** to be O/C.

**Comdt. Finnegan** to be Adjutant.

**Comdt. O'Brien** to be Q.M.

### No. 3 BRIGADE (N. LEITRIM).

**Comdt. Thos. MacGivney** to be O/C.

**Comdt. Jas. Traverst** to be Dep. O/C.

**Comdt. Patrick Carty** to be Adjutant.

**Comdt. Hugh MacHugh** to be Q.M.

### No. 4 BRIGADE (N. MAYO).

**Brigadier Neary** to be O.C.

## Army Orders

### QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPT.

The following orders were issued on June 13, 1922:—

#### Regulation No. 37.

##### NAMES ON VEHICLES.

Names, letters, or figures will not be allowed on any motor vehicles unless it is authorised by G.H.Q. All unauthorised names, etc., will immediately be erased.

##### QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

#### Regulation No. 38.

All invoices submitted to the Paymaster must contain information as to the Barracks to which goods thereon were supplied.

##### QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

#### Regulation No. 39.

All repairs to Boots, Uniforms, and all other equipment, must be carried out by the Barracks Workshop. Bills for repairs or alterations of above will not be passed for payment after the 17th June, 1922.

##### QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

Quartermaster-General's Dept.,  
17th June, 1922.

#### Regulation No. 40.

##### TRANSPORT REQUISITION AND DUTY SHEET.

All Motor Vehicles required must be applied for on a Form as shown hereunder. When Cars are required, this Form must be filled in and handed to the Transport Officer, N.C.O., or man in charge of the cars, who will complete the filling up and hand it to the driver.

All drivers must carry this form properly filled up when on the road, and must produce it for inspection when stopped by a Transport Inspector or other Officer in authority.

In the case of a car which is attached to a Unit, and where there is no Transport Depot, the driver must fill up this form when going on duty and must carry it with him when on the road.

##### QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

##### TRANSPORT REQUISITION AND DUTY SHEET.

To be filled in by Officer requiring Car.  
Officer requiring car ..... No. ....  
Dept. .... Date .....  
Destination ..... Business .....  
Class of car .....  
Time required ..... Approximate  
time of return .....

To be filled in by Transport Officer.  
Station ..... Car ..... No. ....  
Driver ..... Out ..... In .....  
On whose authority given .....  
Signed .....  
Report of accident or untoward incident while  
on run .....  
Inspector's signature and Rank .....

### No. 5 BRIGADE (E. MAYO).

**Comdt. Murphy**, Temporary O/C.

**Comdt. A. Flatley**, Temporary Adjutant.

**Comdt. Brian MacTigue**, Temporary Q.M.

**Comdt. Thos. Ruane**, Temporary Deputy O/C.

**Capt. Flynn**, Temporary Transport Officer.

**Capt. John McHale** to be Training Officer.

### NORTH ROSCOMMON BRIGADE

#### (3rd WESTERN DIVISION).

**Comdt. Joseph Brennan** to be O/C., Boyle

Battalion.

**Capt. Michael Roche** to be Adjutant, Boyle

Battalion.

**Comdt. Patk. Byrne** to be O/C., Elphin

Battalion.

**Capt. Peter Leavy** to be Adjutant, Elphin

Battalion.

**Comdt. John Leavy** to be O/C., Strokestown

Battalion.

**Capt. Joseph Cox** to be Adjutant, Strokes-

town Battalion.

**Comdt. Jas. Doyle** to be O/C., Kilmore Bat-

talion.

**Capt. Dan Leavy** to be Adjutant, Kilmore

Battalion.

## Supremacy in the Air

According to Major G. P. Neumann of the German Air Force, it is in France, as contrasted with England and America, that the further development of aerial forces will almost certainly be brought about.

France, according to this authority, will build up a huge internal aerial armament with a view to keeping the Central Powers in permanent subjection to the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. But should France desire to retain her position as a great power she will be inevitably compelled to compete with her present Allies in an extra-European scramble for supremacy on the sea, in the air and in colonial possessions. England and America will also be forced in the same direction. For to both of them, particularly England, it is necessary that their merchant seamen should have full freedom to navigate the world's seas. The protection which this demands can no longer be afforded by a great naval fleet alone. The immense sea armament for which Britain has become famed, was formerly a guarantee to her of commercial and colonial prosperity. Her dread-noughts commanded the highways of the ocean and her merchant marine traded in all parts with security.

If this is to continue, if England is to retain possession of the Straits of Gibraltar, the English Channel and similar vital positions for world supremacy, she must also retain possession of the air above them and provide there a defensive force without which her naval supremacy may count for little.

Furthermore, the system of air communications encircling the globe which has been projected by England can only be brought into existence under the protection of a strong Air Force. America and Japan will of necessity follow the same lines in developing their air services.

In carrying out these projects for the economic exploitation of the air, one result is certain and that is war. The present Allied and Associated Powers realise this and naturally will in each case construct aircraft which can be easily utilised in warfare. The aeroplane and airship which can be developed for purely commercial purposes will be very much superior in their performances to armoured machines designed for the mounting of offensive weapons. "All nations," says Neumann, "which have to reckon with the fear of further inevitable hostilities in the sharing of the spoil won in a plundering peace, find themselves faced with this question: 'Is it better to construct commercial and industrial establishments underground, or so to develop air power that it becomes unnecessary to do so?'"

It is interesting to note these views of a German Air Officer, which are not without point for the organisers of Ireland's defence forces to-day.

Printed for G.H.Q., Irish Republican Army, at Mahon's Printing Works, Yarnhall Street, Dublin.

